

Amendments to the Claims

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (Original) A nerve retractor assembly for manipulation of the spinal neurostructure, the assembly comprising,
a retractor blade;
a retractor body adapted for unobstructed view of the retracted area wherein the retractor body is provided with a channel adapted to receive the retractor blade.

51. (Original) The nerve retractor assembly of claim 50 wherein the retractor body further includes at least one supporting member mounted thereon for attaching a retractor pin, and

a retractor pin attached to a first one of the at least one supporting member for fixedly positioning the retractor blade relative to the neural structure.

52. (Original) The nerve retractor assembly of claim 50 wherein the at least one supporting member defines a hollow tube for receiving a retractor pin.

53. (Original) The nerve retractor assembly of claim 50 wherein the channel is a concave channel.

54. (Original) The nerve retractor assembly of claim 50 and further including a second retractor pin having a handle and a shaft disposed between the pin and the handle and slideably received in the at least one supporting members.

55. (Original) A nerve retractor assembly for manipulation of the spinal neurostructure, the assembly comprising:

a retractor body adopted for undistracted view of the retracted area, the retractor body including at least one supporting member mounted thereon for attaching a retractor pin, and
at least one retractor pin attached to the supporting member.

56-57. (Canceled)

58. (Original) A method of preparing a implant for a posterior lumbar interbody fusion, the method comprising forming an implant having a substantially elongated body from a bone remnant left from the manufacture of a bone dowel from a long bone.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58 wherein the implant has sufficient width to withstand a compressional force of about 30,000 Newtons.

60. (Original) A round scraper for removal of tissue, the round scraper defining a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a first arm extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis,
a second arm spaced from the first arm and extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal wherein the first arm and the second arm define a cavity therebetween, and
a tip disposed between the first arm and the second arm wherein the tip includes a first upper cutting edge and a second lower cutting edge and a curved surface disposed between the first cutting edge and the second cutting edge.

61. (Original) The round scraper of claim 60 wherein the first arm further includes a first upper flat surface and a second lower flat surface and the second arm further includes a third upper flat surface and a fourth lower flat surface.

62. (Original) A bone graft loader for depositing osteogenic material in an intervertebral space, the bone graft loader comprising:

a body surrounding a hollow shaft wherein the body includes a first wall and a second wall, the second wall including an opening into the shaft,
a pivot plate pivotally mounted within the shaft and having a surface proximal to the opening wherein the surface is adapted for receipt of osteogenic material, and
a plunger slidably received with the shaft and disposed between the pivot plate and the first wall.